

Potential Elders Questionnaire

God has entrusted the saving message of Christ and the presence of the Spirit to only one entity on earth: the church. If the congregation is going to reach its full redemptive potential—to win as many as possible in their generation for Christ—they would need their very best men leading the way. Paul writes to the young minister Timothy with a description of the kind of men who can lead the Ephesian church back to God’s agenda.

Paul lists 15 qualities to look for in potential leaders in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. In 1 Timothy 3:1, Paul reminds Timothy that an elder’s task is full of great dignity (“noble”) and great difficulty (“task”). Since this is work of the highest order, Timothy must search for men of the highest caliber.

The first quality listed is above reproach, literally meaning “not able to be held.” In other words, if charges were leveled against this man, he wouldn’t even be held for questioning because his reputation is so solid. He’s Teflon, not Velcro. His integrity is such that accusations just won’t stick.

By the way, in verse 7 Paul bookends this list with another call for *a good reputation with outsiders*. Why this emphasis on how well others think of a man? Simply this: the reputation of Christ is tied to that of the church, and the reputation of the church is tied to that of its leaders. Please read the Elder Manual, and then answer the following questions. Use as much space as you think necessary to articulate your position. When you meet with the current elders after the completion of the questionnaire be prepared to discuss any/all of the below.

Character

Please read Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and raise any areas you feel are important.

Why do you believe you are called to be an elder?

When did you come to faith?

Are you married? Faithful to her?

Does your wife support the idea of you being an elder?

Have you been divorced? Remarried? Under what circumstances?

Are your children believers? Are they obedient?

How do you handle alcohol / other substances? Any addictions?

Do you become angry easily?

Financially are there any issues we need to know about? Are you in big debt?

Are there any incidents or character traits that non-Christians would know of that would lead them to question the faith?

How do you handle social media and do you understand the policies of the church regarding it?

What are your views on monitoring social media postings or links of immediate family members? What steps do you take to ensure immediate family members do not post inappropriate messages or links on social media?

“John Doe” is living in rebellion and has been placed on church discipline. You just found out that “Tommy Smith,” a church member, who is involved in your ministry, just “friended” John Doe on his social media page. What is your response, if any, to Tommy?

As you look at your life, which areas would you say are out of control, selfishly controlled, and under God’s control?

A member of the church is offended by one of your actions that you think is a “non-issue.” How do you respond to that person?

Church leadership as a whole has decided to follow a course of action that is unpopular with a number of people in the body. Privately you also disagree with this course of action. A number of these disgruntled people have complained to you about this issue. How would you respond to them?

A member of your immediate household is in rebellion against you as leader of your household and also against God. How would you respond to this?

Anything else you know you need to mention?

What question are you hoping **not** to be asked?

Doctrine

Community Bible Church is a Bible believing and Bible teaching church. "Buying into" some abstract body of truth does not qualify any individual or a church as "Bible believing." Rather, biblical faith is a relationship to God, through Jesus Christ, based

upon the gospel revealed by Him and in His holy word. We seek to maintain the entire teaching of the Bible, rightly understood as our sole source of authority and polity.

Can you articulate a clear position on:

The Gospel

The Trinity

Jesus

The Bible

Salvation (reformed view vs the Arminian) we hold the reformed view as the biblical one

Inerrancy

Propitiation

The Sovereignty of God

Women in Ministry

Sexuality

Hell

Church

What is your understanding of biblical leadership?

What is your understanding of biblical church government structure?

How do you deal with relationship issues within the body?

How do you understand the purpose and process of church discipline? When is it necessary?

What is your position on:

Membership

The Lord's Supper

Baptism

Devotions:

What are your patterns, disciplines and understandings in relation to:

Bible reading

Prayer

Witnessing

Giving

Additional Items for Elder Candidates from the Pastoral Staff

1. Elders are responsible for the spiritual oversight to the church. In your current area of ministry, how do you care for, shepherd, and spiritually feed your sheep?
2. Elders are expected to be good examples for the flock in the church. In your current area of ministry, are you always a good example to those you serve? If you have been told that your example is not always what it should be, what steps have you taken so your example is as close to Jesus' example as it can be?
3. Elders are expected to have a good report with all they serve. Do you have a good report from the flock in the church as well as those who work in your current area of ministry? If you have been made aware of a bad report, what steps have you taken to deal with it?
4. Two who work with you in your current area of ministry have a grievance with each other related to the ministry and have aired to others their disagreements. What is your response?
5. If, in your current area of ministry, one who works with you has a serious health problem, how will you handle it?
6. If, in your current area of ministry, one who works with you is considering divorcing a spouse, how will you handle it?
7. If, in your current area of ministry, one who works with you expresses that he has a problem with the church's doctrinal statement, how will you handle it.